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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jackson High School Students Honored for Efforts to Promote Safe Teen Driving

Vandercook Lake and Hopkins high schools also recognized

Jackson High School took top honors in its division for the school's Strive For a Safer Drive (S4SD) distracted driving campaign. The first place selection recognizes the outstanding efforts of Jackson High School students in educating their classmates about safe teen driving.

S4SD, presented by AAA Michigan, Ford Driving Skills for Life and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, provides funding and resources to help teens talk to teens about safe driving with the goal of reducing traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers. The top schools are selected based on creativity, execution and compliance with the S4SD participation requirements.

Vandercook Lake High School, also in Jackson County, was awarded second place and Hopkins High School in Allegan County received third place. This is the third year in a row Vandercook Lake High School has been recognized as part of S4SD. Jackson and Hopkins high schools are being recognized for the first time.

The three schools were in Division 1, which included 14 schools in Allegan, Berrien, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, Livingston, Ottawa and Van Buren counties. Division 2 had 14 schools in Genesee, Oakland and Saginaw counties, and Division 3 had 15 schools in Macomb, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.

The participating schools will attend a free hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors at the Ford Dearborn Development Center, May 1-2. Courtney Force, Ford Driving Skills for Life spokesperson, will promote seat belt use at the event. Force is driver of the 300 mph Traxxas Ford Mustang Funny Car in the National Hot Rod Association.

During the 2013-2014 school year, more than 40 Michigan high schools in counties with the highest number of teen traffic fatalities and serious injuries each received \$2,000 for students to create peer-to-peer traffic safety-related campaigns. The students conducted activities for five months before submitting a final report.

To see examples from the top S4SD campaigns visit Michigan.gov/s4sd.

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